

**Beatrice Winser: Librarian, Museum Director,
and Advocate for Women's Equality**

On August 21, 1889, two months before the Newark Public Library opened to the public for the first time, several candidates for jobs in the library took an employment test. After their examination papers were graded, the Library trustees' Special Committee on Assistants unanimously recommended that Miss Beatrice Winser and Miss Frances Herrick be hired "to permanent positions in the library services" at a salary of \$35 per month.¹ I don't know what happened to Frances Herrick, but that was the start of Beatrice Winser's astonishing fifty-eight year career in Newark as librarian, museum director, and determined advocate for women's equality and higher education.



Beatrice Winser, ca. 1920. Newark Museum

¹ Board of Trustee Minutes, Special Meeting on August 22, 1889, Newark Public Library. *"Fifty Years: 1889-1939,"* published by the Newark Public Library in 1939 to mark its 50th anniversary, contains a detailed timeline of the library's early history.

When Tom Ankner and Nadine Sergejeff asked me to speak at this program, they told me I could choose any topic I wanted as long as it wasn't about John Cotton Dana. I suggested Beatrice Winsor, and they immediately agreed. Like everyone who has heard Bruce Ford's stories about Miss Winsor, I have long wanted to know more about her, so this gave me the opportunity to look at the Winsor Papers here at the Library and at the Newark Museum, and at the family scrapbooks at the New Jersey Historical Society. There is a vast amount of archival material about Beatrice Winsor, and I should be clear that I have explored only a fraction of it.² I focused on her work at the library, with a glance at her advocacy. Quintus Jett has been studying her role in the formation of the University of Newark, and many scholars have looked at the early history of the museum. I should also point out that while she was always addressed as "Miss Winsor," I have chosen to refer to her as "Winsor."

Winsor was a woman of fierce intelligence, a voracious reader, fluent in several languages, and completely dedicated to her work. Blessed with robust health, she had a commanding and at times even an intimidating presence. Holger Cahill, who worked with her at the Newark Museum before joining MOMA and then serving as national director of the WPA's Federal Arts Project, recalled that she always threw him "off a little bit."³ As an administrator, she could be brisk to the point of being

² The Newark Archives Project website (nap.rutgers.edu) provides the best guide to archival materials related to Beatrice Winsor.

³ "Reminiscences of Holger Cahill," transcript of oral history interview conducted by Joan Puig in 1957, Holger Cahill Papers, Smithsonian Institution, Archives of

brusque, and sometimes ruthless in her decisions. But at the same time many appreciated her personal kindness in both large and small matters.

This Library was her “beloved institution,” but she did not limit her considerable energy to the library.⁴ She was dubbed “the busiest woman in Newark” by a local newspaper during the years when she served simultaneously as Librarian and Director of the Newark Museum, as trustee of Dana College and later the University of Newark, and leader or participant in a host of other projects and organizations.⁵ When the newly formed University of Newark conferred an honorary doctorate on her in 1937, in the same group with Louis Bamberger, she was cited as “an ideal public servant and a luminous personality.”⁶

Beatrice Winsor’s particular genius was organizational management, just as John Cotton Dana’s was vision and innovation. Holger Cahill considered Winsor “an amazing manager,” and he suspected she “could run anything, including the United States Government, with great efficiency.”⁷ Winsor was not one to chart a new path, but give her a mandate to carry out, and there was almost no one better. We tend

American Art, 156. <https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/holger-cahill-papers-6730/series-1/reel-5285-frames-0027-0653>

⁴ Beatrice Winsor, letter “to all my friends” about her retirement, August 14, 1942. Winsor papers, The Newark Museum.

⁵ Irvine White, “Beatrice Winsor,” in *Beatrice Winsor: 1869-1947* (The Newark Museum: 1948) 9.

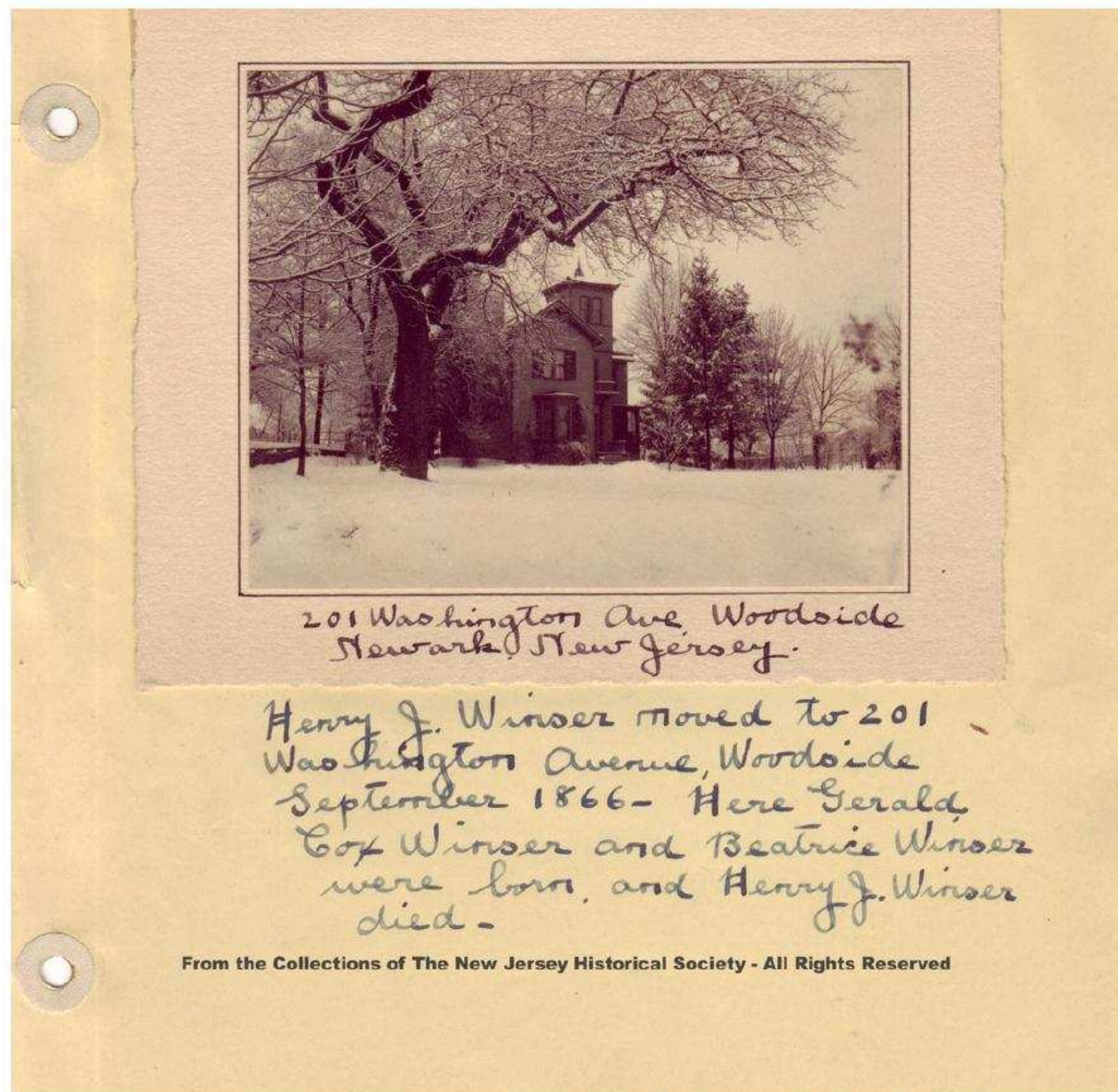
⁶ *Beatrice Winsor: 1869-1947* (The Newark Museum: 1948) 13.

⁷ “Reminiscences of Holger Cahill,” transcript of oral history interview conducted by Joan Puig in 1957, Holger Cahill Papers, Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Art, 157. <https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/holger-cahill-papers-6730/series-1/reel-5285-frames-0027-0653>

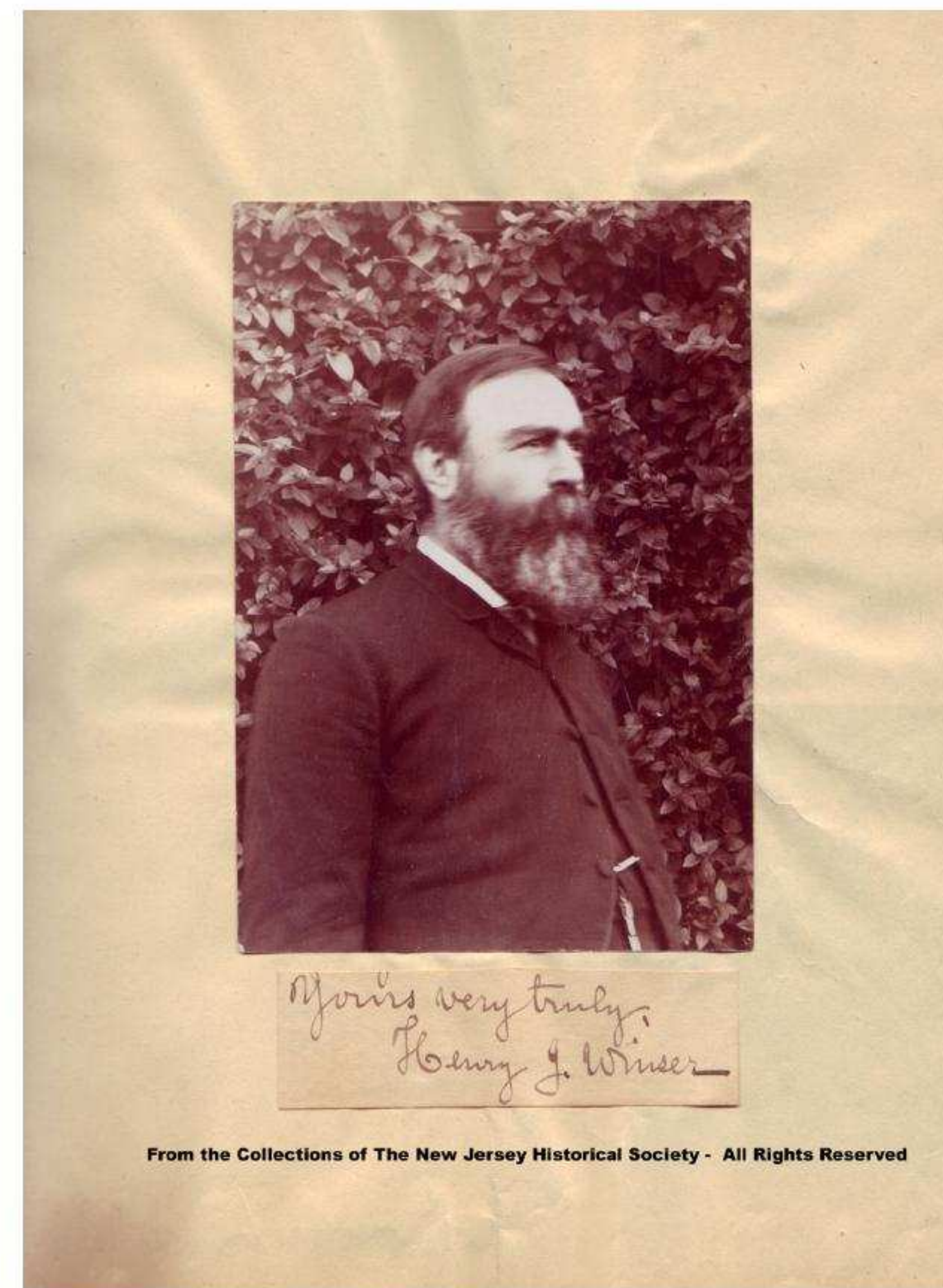
not to give a lot of credit to extraordinary managers; our acclaim goes instead to the innovator and visionary. So, it is John Cotton Dana who still gets all the attention; he is “the Man of Genius.” For example, in her recent book, *John Cotton Dana, Progressive Reform, and the Newark Museum*, Carol Duncan mentions Winsor only six times and dismisses her as “Dana’s worshipful assistant.”⁸ It is true that Winsor adored Dana; he was perhaps her ideal man – not in any physical or romantic sense but for his intellect and vision.⁹ But, in my view, it is helpful to think of Winsor as completing Dana, just as much as Dana completed Winsor. Without Dana, Winsor was a supremely competent but sometimes inflexible bureaucrat, as would become evident toward the end of her career at the Library. But I suspect it is equally true that without Winsor, Dana might have come off as a restless and often contentious dilettante, full of good ideas but not quite able to pull them off. Together they achieved greatness, both here at the Library and at the Museum, and the City of Newark as well as libraries and museums throughout the United States were better because of their combined genius.

⁸ Carol G. Duncan, *A Matter of Class: John Cotton Dana, Progressive Reform, and the Newark Museum* (Pittsburg: Periscope Publishing, 2009) xi.

⁹ “Reminiscences of Holger Cahill,” 157.



Winsor Residence, where Beatrice was born. NJHS



Henry J. Winsor, Beatrice's father. NJHS

Beatrice Winsor was a Newarker through and through. She was born at home at 201 Washington Street in Woodside, Newark on March 11, 1869 – 150 years ago this March. Her father, Henry J. Winsor, had been a Civil War correspondent and was then City Editor for the *New York Times*. Soon after Beatrice's birth, President Ulysses S. Grant named Henry Winsor US consul in Coburg, Germany, and for the first 12 years of her childhood Beatrice lived in Germany, with a couple trips to the United States. Her education was put in the care of governesses, and she became fluent in German and French; she did not start learning English until she was about ten years old. Holger Cahill recalled that even as an adult she spoke English with a bit of a German accent.¹⁰

¹⁰ "Reminiscences of Holger Cahill," 156. C.G. Hines related stories about the Winsor home and the career of Henry J. Winsor in *Woodside: Its History, Legends and Ghost Stories*, 1909; see especially 137-8; 142-6; 214-29.

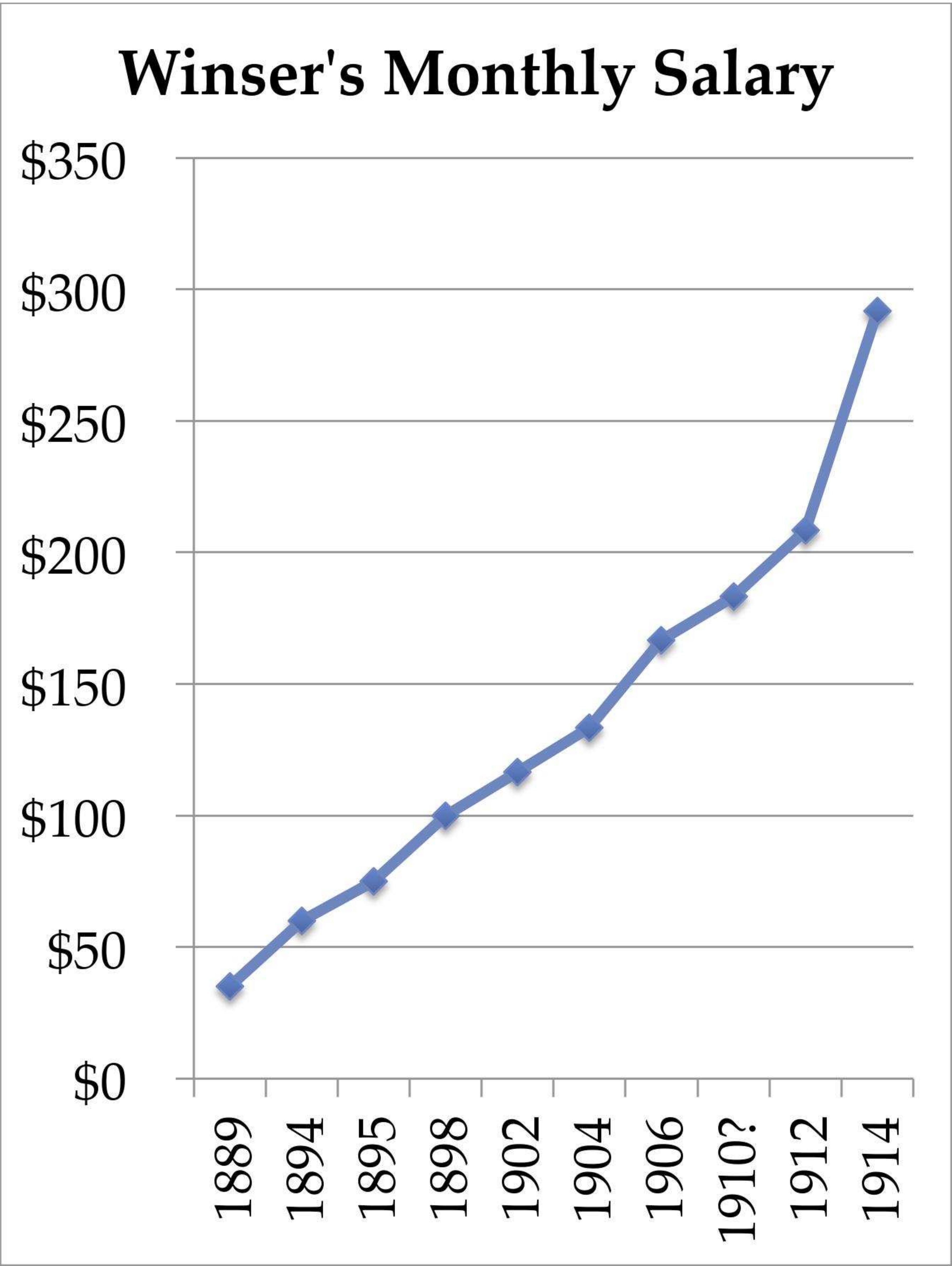


Beatrice Winsor, ca. 1887, perhaps at her Newark High School graduation. NJHS.

When the Winsor family moved back to Newark in 1881, Henry Winsor resumed his career as a journalist, this time as managing editor with the *Newark Daily Advertiser*. Beatrice graduated from Newark High School and then attended classes at Melvil Dewey's pioneering School of Library Economy at Columbia. Dewey suggested -- this is Dewey as in the Dewey decimal system -- that interested students spend the summer "laying in an extra store of physical strength and good health," visiting libraries, improving their skill in library handwriting, and broadening their knowledge of German, French, and Latin.¹¹ Those would have been easy tasks for

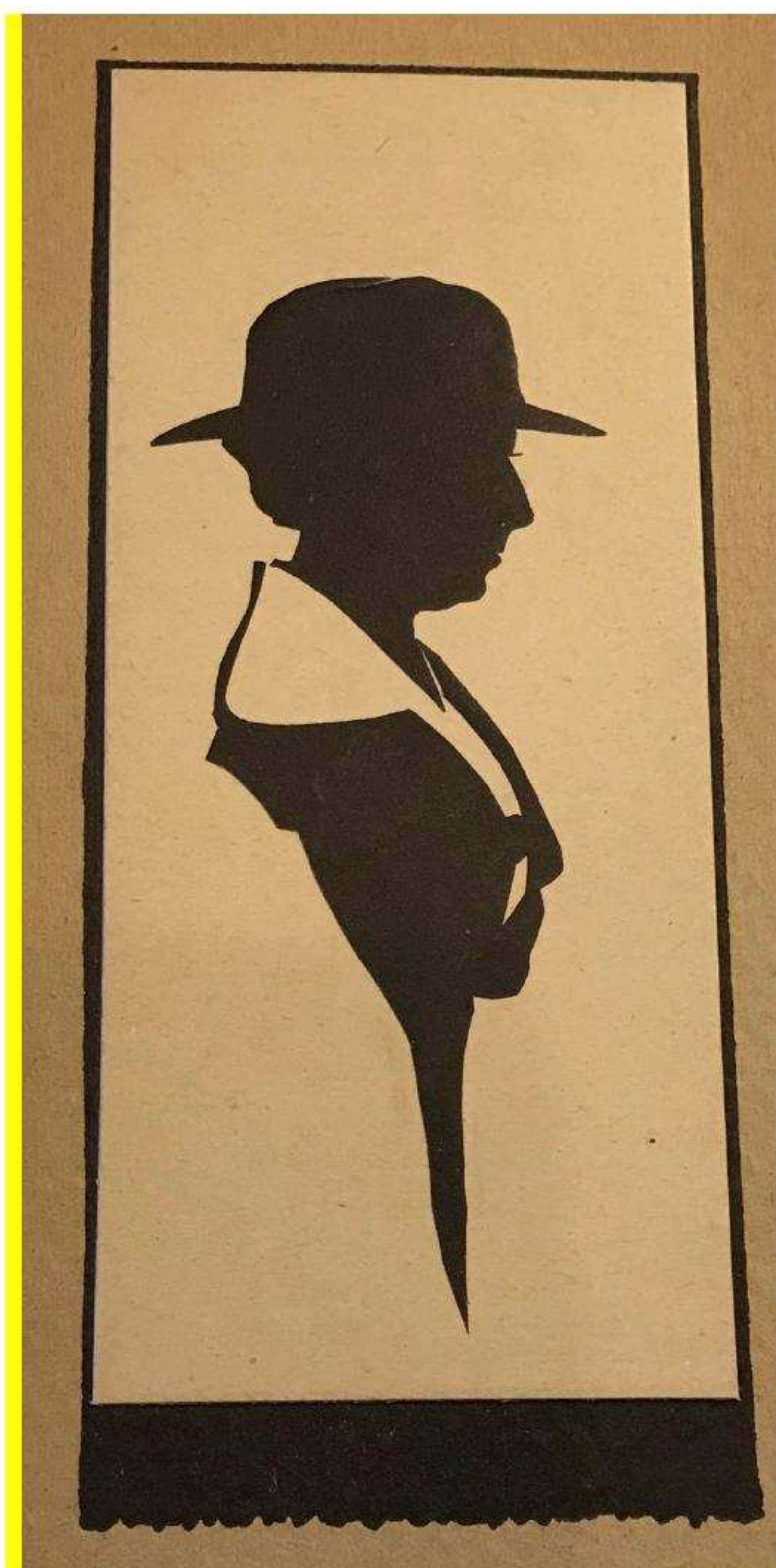
¹¹ Sarah K. Vann, *Training for Librarianship Before 1923* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1961) 45.

Winser, except perhaps for library handwriting since she later drafted letters in an energetic scrawl.



After joining the Newark Public Library staff, Winser rapidly took on increased responsibility. This is evident both in her changing job titles and in her increasing compensation noted in the minutes of the Library board of trustees. She was just twenty years old when she was hired in 1889 to catalogue German and French

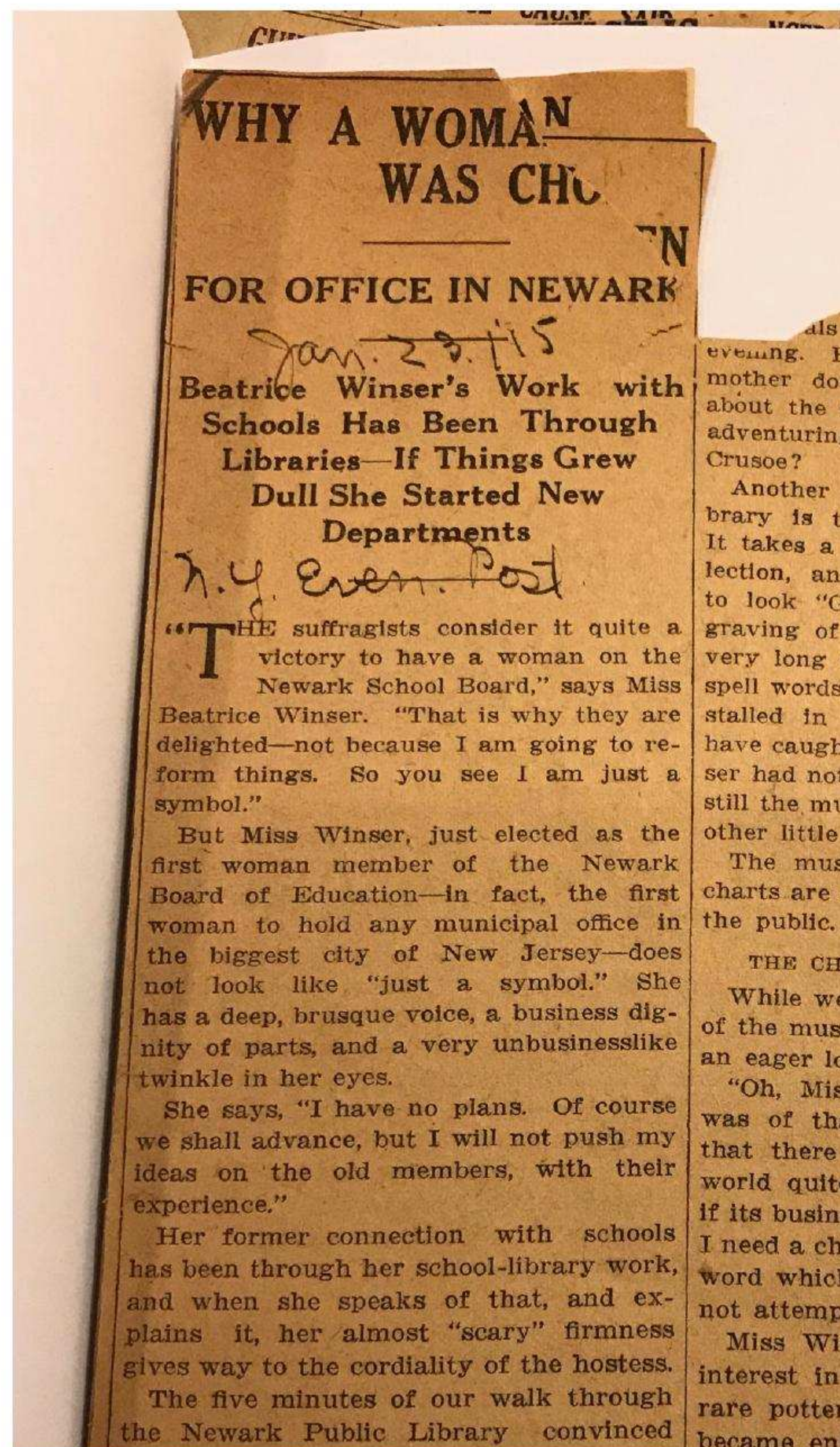
books. Five years later, she became Assistant Librarian; five years after that, when she was just thirty, the Library trustees made her Acting Librarian during the eleven-month interval between the departure of Newark's founding Librarian Frank P. Hill to help Brooklyn establish its public library and the arrival in Newark of John Cotton Dana from Springfield, MA – and keep in mind that this was the period when the Main Library building was still under construction. Ten years later, in 1909, she worked closely with Dana to establish the Newark Museum Association, and in 1915 Dana recommended to both the Library and Museum trustees that she be given “authority to take over [his] duties in his absence.”¹² To no one's surprise, she succeeded Dana as Director of both the Newark Public Library and the Newark Museum following his death in 1929.



Silhouette, 1916. NPL.

¹² Newark Public Library Board of Trustee Minutes, October 7, 1915. NPL. The Newark Museum trustees acted on Dana's suggestion on October 19, 1915.

Beatrice Winsor was a determined advocate for women's equality, often engaging forcefully in public debate. It is perhaps to Dana's credit that he did not clip her wings as she developed her independent reputation on this issue; he did not seem to mind -- as some leaders would -- that his colleague attracted attention and even courted controversy.



"Why a Woman was Chosen," *New York Evening Post*, January 23, 1915 (portion)

In 1915, Mayor Thomas Raymond appointed her to the Newark Board of Education, making her the first woman to serve on a Newark board or commission, in what she said was "quite a victory" for suffragists.¹³ Then, in 1923, in an opinion piece for the

¹³ "Why a Woman was Chosen," *New York Evening Post*, January 23, 1915; Winsor Papers, The Newark Museum. Winsor proposed that the Board of Education cede

Sunday Call on "Women and Equality," she ridiculed state legislation that would ban women from working at night in order to protect their "health and morals." Winsor declared in her article that "Men who have been the rulers for so long will never accord full recognition to women until they discover that women are asking no odds because of sex."¹⁴

Women and Equality

BY MISS BEATRICE WINSER,
Assistant Librarian, Newark Public Library, Former Member of the
Newark Board of Education.

WOMEN have gone a long way since John Stuart Mill, their greatest champion, opened the door to their emancipation. He believed "that equality of rights would abate the exaggerated self-abnegation which was the artificial ideal of feminine character," * * * and would teach men "no longer to worship their own will," than which "there is nothing which men so easily learn as this self-worship: all privileged persons, and all privileged classes, have had it."

"The equality of human beings is the theory of Christianity, but Christianity will never practically teach it while it sanctions institutions grounded on an arbitrary preference of one human being over another."

Women have much to do to catch up with the knowledge of life men have acquired by hard knocks in the world, and my disappointment was keen when I read of the passage of Senate Bill 19, the no-night-work-for-women bill, because once more it showed that after all the striving for women's rights women are resorting to the old tricks of special privileges on account of sex.

Personally I object strenuously to a law which abridges, on account of sex, my personal liberty. Also I object to the insulting phraseology employed in the bill which begins: "In order to protect the health and morals of females employed in manufacturing establishments, bakeries and laundries." Our morals protected forsooth!

Also I find further in the bill that our "health and morals" are perfectly safe if we are "engaged in packing a perishable product, such as fruits or vegetables!" Our morals yield to perishable food! A more insulting and insolent bill it has never before been my lot to read.

If women cannot secure proper working conditions without recourse to law, I would advise their taking lessons from men who secured an eight-hour working day not through legislatures but by their own concerted action.

It is, I suppose, too soon for women in their newly-acquired freedom to overcome the pernicious habit of getting things done in the world by appealing to man's consciousness of woman's sex, but I firmly believe that women will never take their proper places in the world until they learn to judge themselves by what they accomplish.

Men who have been the rulers so long will never accord full recognition to women until they discover that women are asking no odds because of sex.



MISS BEATRICE WINSER.

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Beatrice Winsor, "Women and Equality," *Sunday Call*, April 11, 1923.

greater independence and authority to the Superintendent of Schools. The other members of the Board of Education rejected her reforms, and she resigned in 1917.

¹⁴ Beatrice Winsor, "Women and Equality," *Sunday Call*, April 11, 1923. Winsor Papers, MG1063, Box 2, Scrapbook 5, New Jersey Historical Society

Editor,
Public Libraries,
6 No. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I note that Mr. Wyer in his report on his visit to 16 military camps, to inspect the libraries therein, says (page 339 Library Journal) that:

"All our librarians agree that a camp library is a 'man's job' calling for the best ability and qualities in our very best men. There is nearly unanimous agreement that women can be largely 'used' for assistants and for branches in the base hospitals, and it is gratifying to record that the commanding officers are nearly all willing to allow women to be thus 'used'."

As all our librarians are men and as nearly all men are of the opinion that man is, in all respects, as far as work is concerned, superior to woman, it is not strange that they all agree that the running of camp libraries is something that can be done by men only. A "man's Job", in their minds, means something above and beyond any piece of work that woman has ever attained to.

If Mr. Wyer is right in his report, that all librarians in camp libraries think that only men can run a good camp library,

Winsor protests that women are not permitted to run camp libraries in WWI, May 1918. NPL.

She took on sexism in her own profession, too. During World War I, she challenged the view that running camp libraries for soldiers was a 'man's job' and that women could be 'used' only as assistants. In a blistering letter in May 1918 to the editor of the journal *Public Libraries*, she wrote:

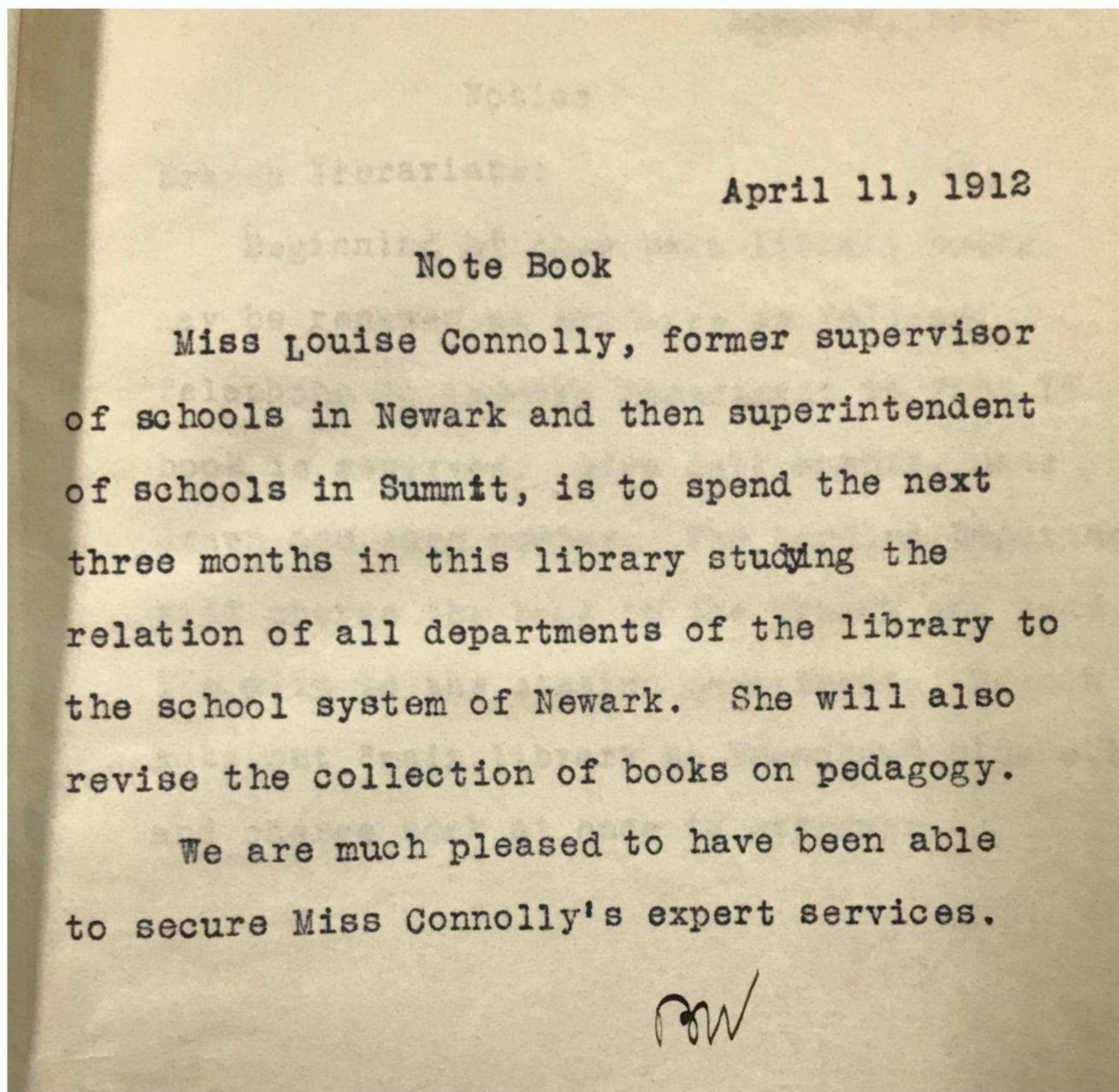
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¹⁵ Beatrice Winsor, Letter to the Editor of *Public Libraries*, May 1918. Retained typescript copy in the Winsor Papers, Newark Public Library. See also George Robb, "Propaganda, Censorship, and Book Drives: The Newark Public Library in World War I," *New Jersey Studies* 5, no. 1 (2019): 101-126.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/njs.v5i1.150>

Winser challenges the belief that working with children is a woman's job, June 1918. NPL.

One month later, in another letter to the editor of *Public Libraries*, she objected to the idea that men should not serve as children's librarians on the basis that working with children was a 'woman's job'. She pointed out that "Superior physical strength does not necessarily endow men with superior gray matter, and it would seem to be high time for men to disabuse themselves of the notion, in spite of the present world cataclysm, that brute force is the only thing that moves the world."¹⁶

¹⁶ Beatrice Winser, Letter to the Editor of *Public Libraries*, June 14, 1918. Retained typescript copy in the Winser Papers, Newark Public Library.



Staff Notice about Louise Connolly, April 11, 1912. NPL.

Like Dana, Winsor was keen to hire bright women for the Library and Museum. The early history of the Library and Museum is peppered with strong and forceful women, all unmarried as was the practice at the time, who viewed library and museum work as a way of driving social change and whose sense of mission was just as deep as those who worked for settlement houses. Here are two examples: in April 1912, while Dana was traveling overseas, Winsor was excited to announce the appointment of Louise Connolly, who had been Superintendent of Schools in Summit before being forced out by a conservative Board of Education. Connolly went on to develop innovative educational programs at both the Library and Museum.

helped to establish. Her successor, Marian Manley, had entered library work by accident. In 1915 she had made a street corner speech in Summit for the New Jersey League for Woman's Suffrage. One of those listening to the determined 23-year-old girl was Miss Louise Connolly, educational expert of the Newark Public Library. After the speech she asked if Miss Manley would like a job.

"But I never went to college. I don't even have a high school diploma!" said the astonished suffragette, whose formal education had been treated casually.

The educational expert was unruffled. A few days later Miss Manley saw Miss Beatrice Winsor, the assistant librarian.

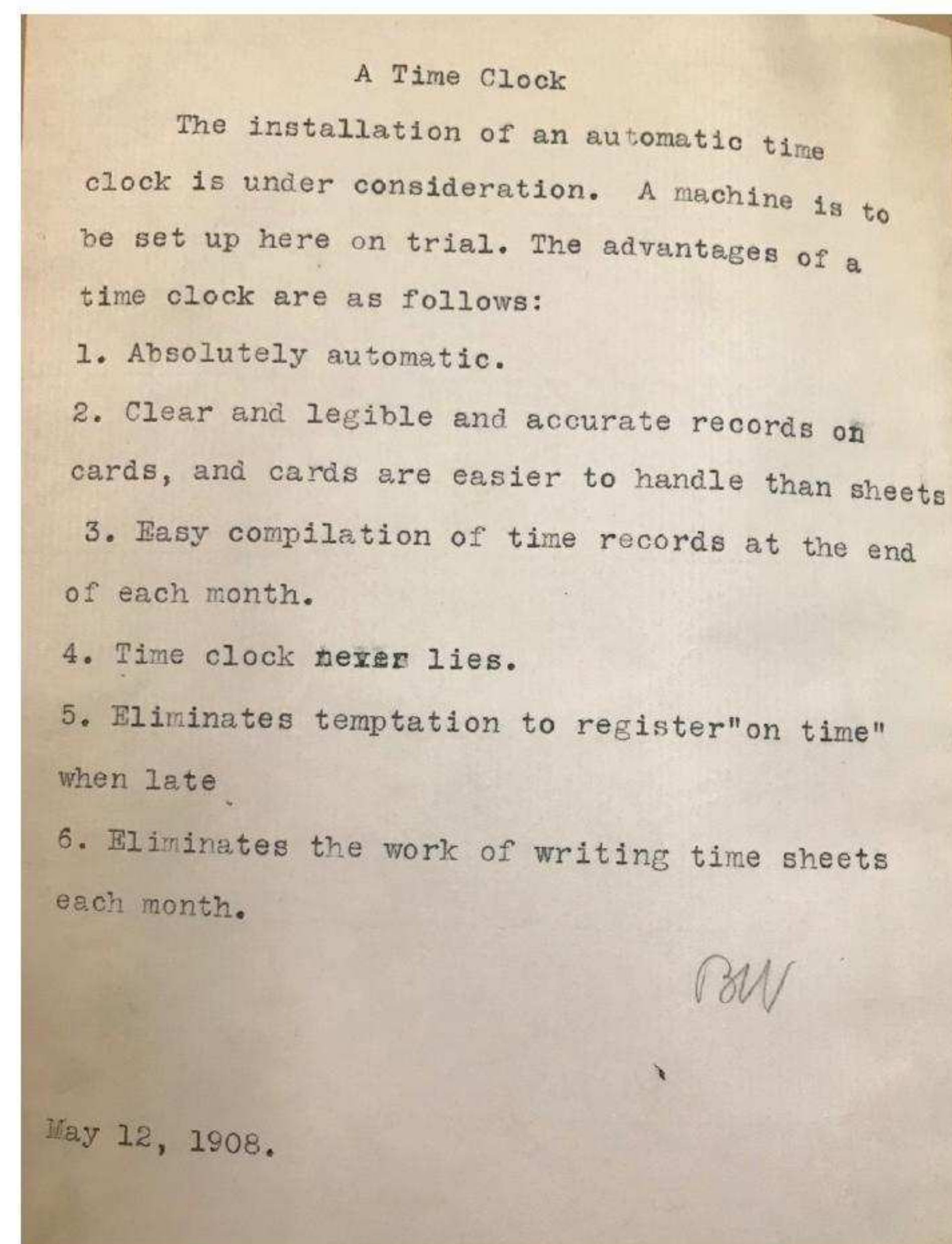
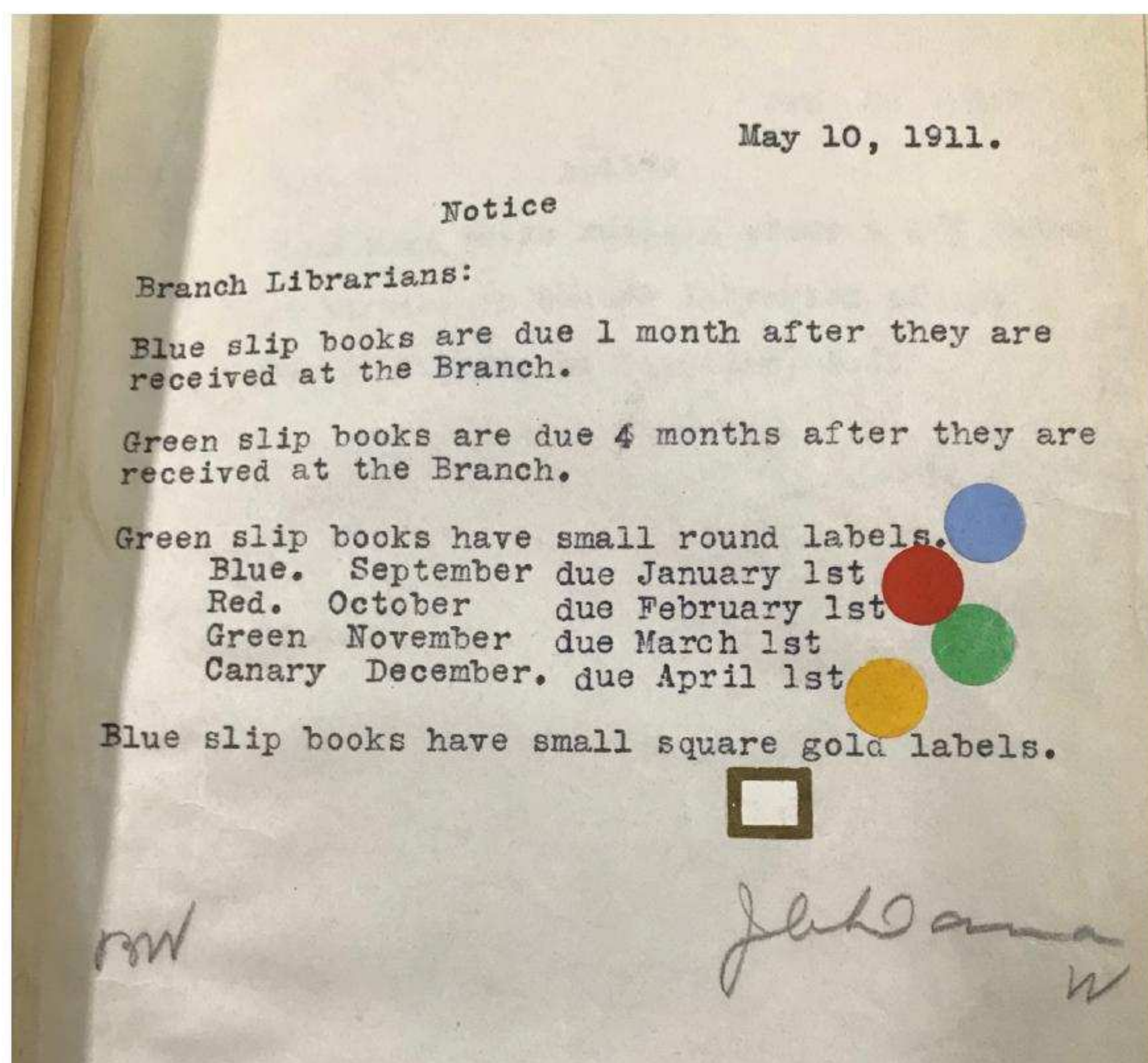
"But I don't even know shorthand!"

"I think you have executive ability," Miss Winsor replied. "If anyone asks you to take dictation, just say you are in the habit of dictating."

"A Half-Century of Power for Business," NPL, 1954.

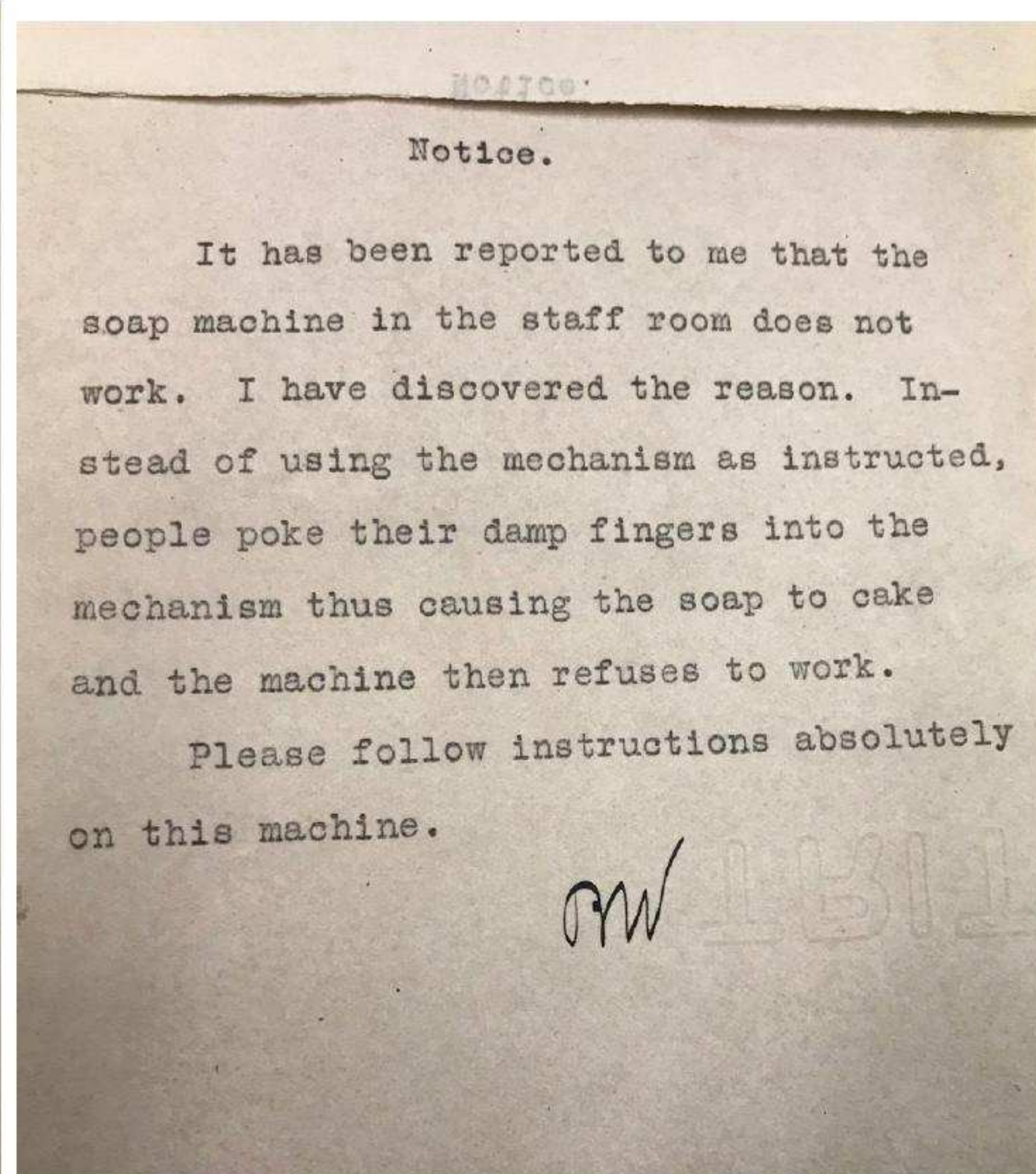
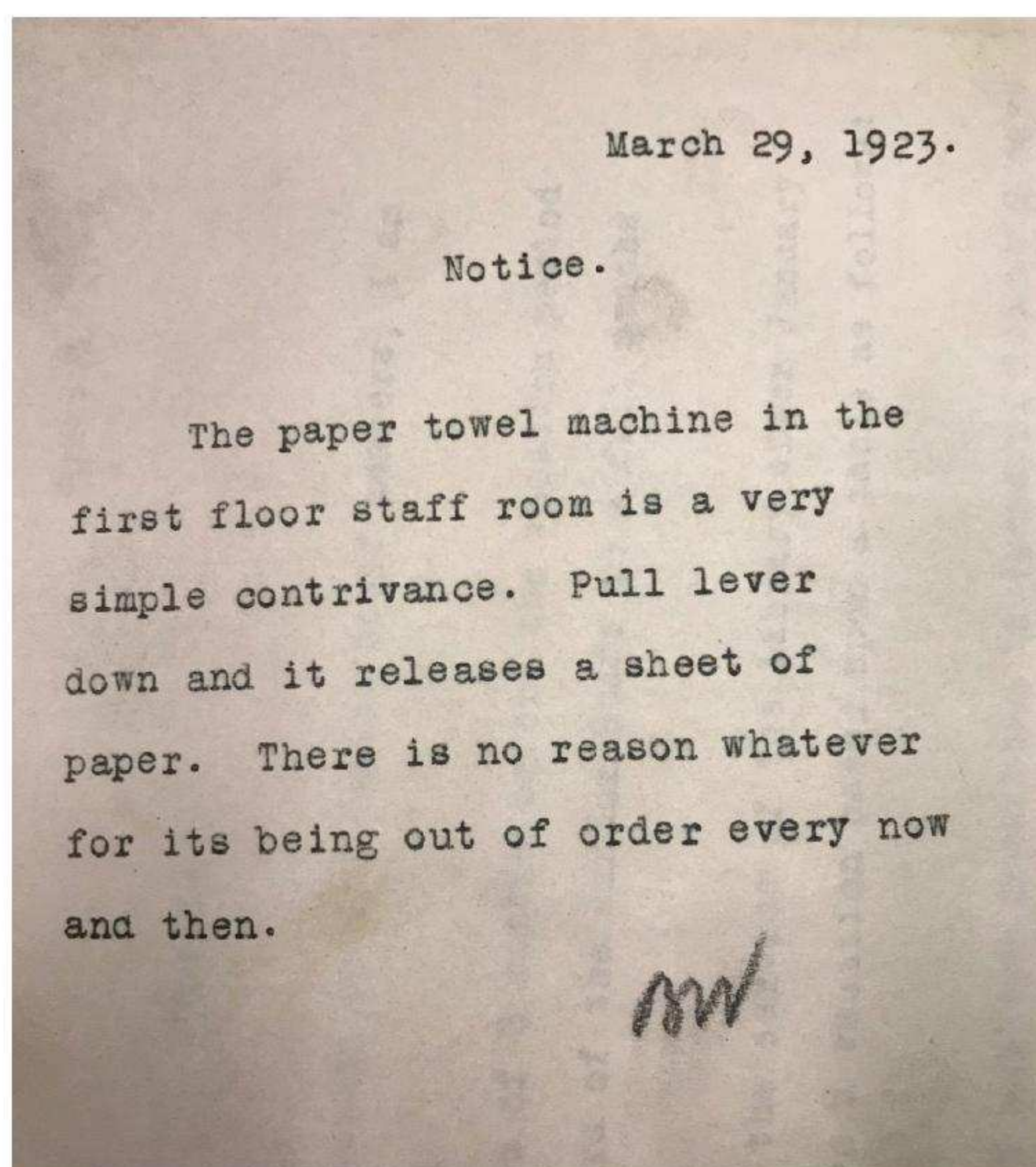
In 1915, Connolly was also the one to spot a young Marian Manley making a street corner speech in Summit for the New Jersey League for Women's Suffrage. She went up to Manley after the speech and suggested she might work for the Newark Public Library. Nearly forty years later, after going on to manage the library's Business Branch with singular success, Manley recalled meeting Beatrice Winsor for the first time and admitting that she didn't even know shorthand. Miss Winsor replied: "I think you have executive ability. If anyone asks you to take dictation, just say you are in the habit of dictating."¹⁷

¹⁷ "A Half-Century of Power for Business: 1904-1954," (Newark Public Library: [1954]) 25.



Staff Notices, NPL.

Winsor was responsible for managing the Library on a day-to-day basis, and over the years she developed many library procedures, from a color-coded system for telling when books were due to installing a time clock, noting drily in her notice to staff that a "time clock never lies."¹⁸

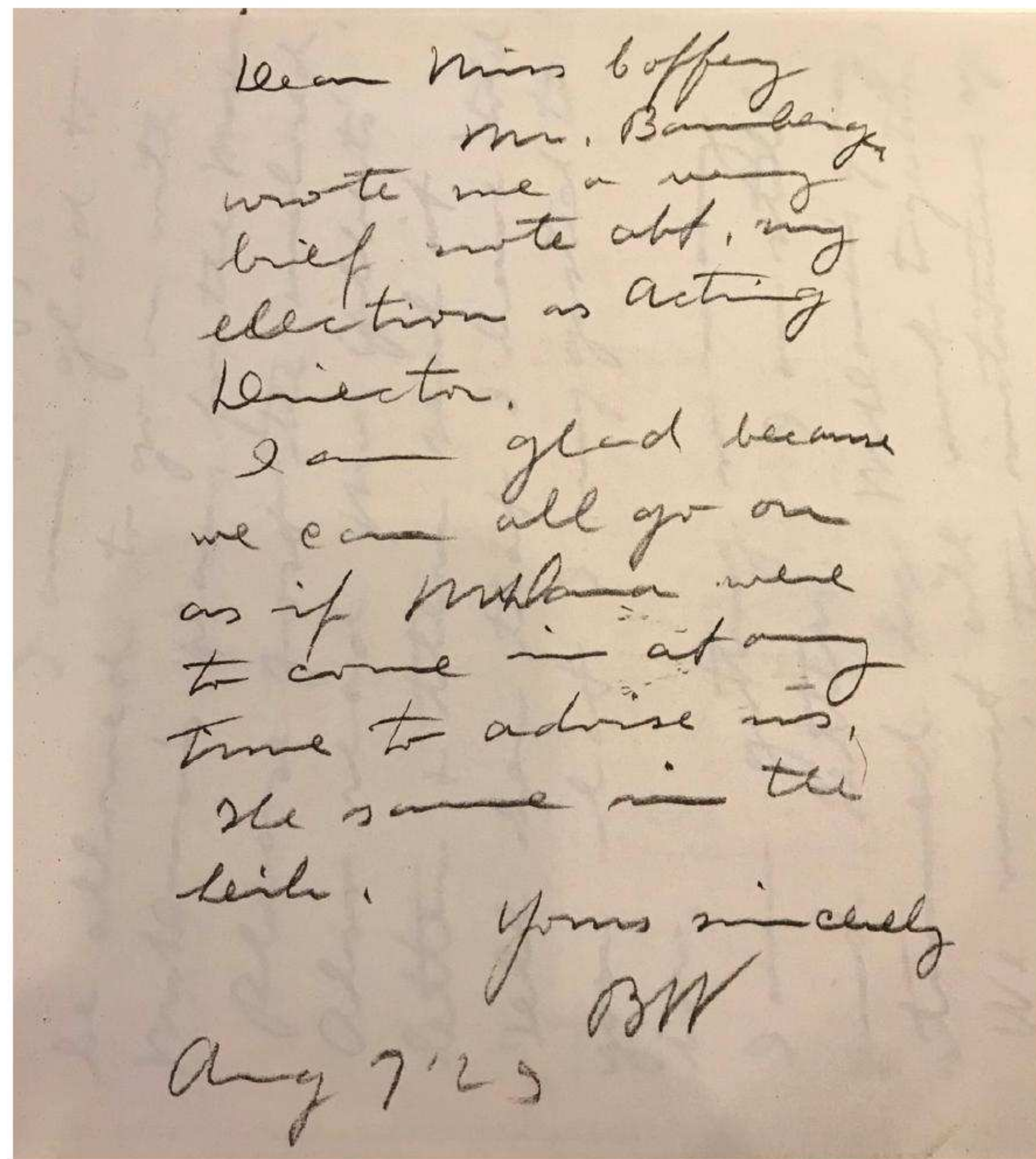


Staff Notices, NPL.

¹⁸ Staff Notices, May 10, 1911 and May 12, 1908, Newark Public Library.

The paper towel machine in the first floor staff room is a very simple contrivance. Pull lever down and it releases a sheet of paper. There is no reason whatever for its being out of order every now and then.

Instead of using the machine as instructed, people poke their damp fingers into the mechanism thus causing the soap to cake and the machine then refuses to work. Please follow instructions absolutely on this machine.¹⁹



Beatrice Winsor to Katherine Coffey, August 7, 1929, Newark Museum

It is easy to caricature Winsor for some of her management practices, but there was little doubt she was the right person to succeed Dana as Librarian and Director of

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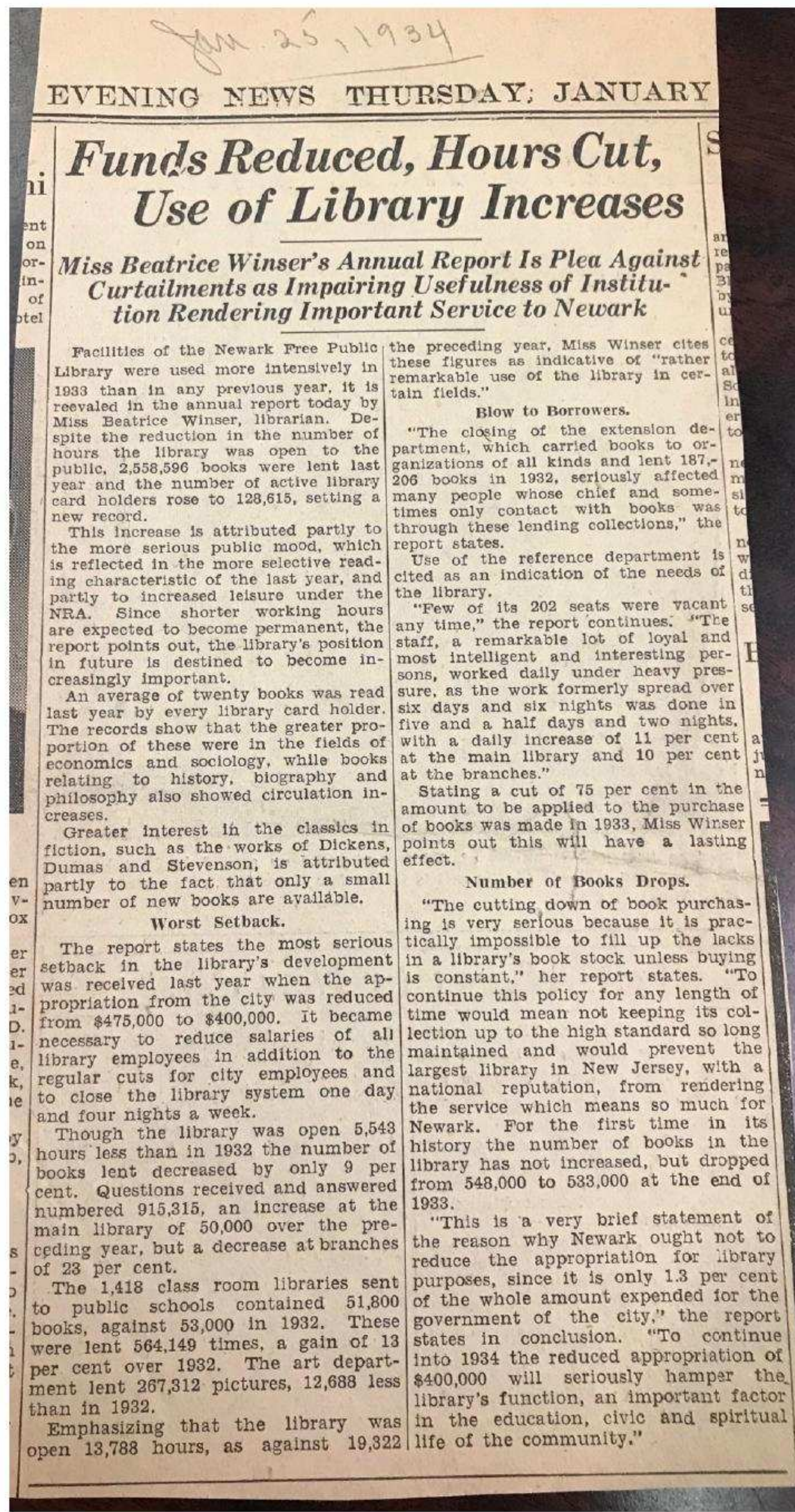
the Museum after his death. Richard Jenkinson, head of the Library trustees, told the *Newark Evening News* that there had been “a large number of applicants” for the position, but they cannot have been taken seriously since the trustees named Winsor the new Librarian just a few weeks after Dana’s death. As we all know, director searches never move that quickly!

In a letter to staff members soon after Dana’s death, Winsor called him “a great man,” and added, “we shall never see his like again.”²⁰ She fully endorsed Dana’s deceptively simple but profound idea that “a library or a museum should shape itself to fit the needs of the people it serves.”²¹ As she wrote to Katherine Coffey at the museum a couple weeks after Dana’s death, “we can all go on as if Mr Dana were to come in at any time to advise us. The same in the Lib[rary].”²²

²⁰ Beatrice Winsor, note to Katherine Coffey, July 24, 1929, Winsor Papers, Newark Museum.

²¹ Biographical notes about Beatrice Winsor, January 15, 1937, Winsor papers, Newark Public Library.

²² Beatrice Winsor, Draft Letter to Katherine Coffey, August 7, 1923. Winsor Papers, Newark Museum.



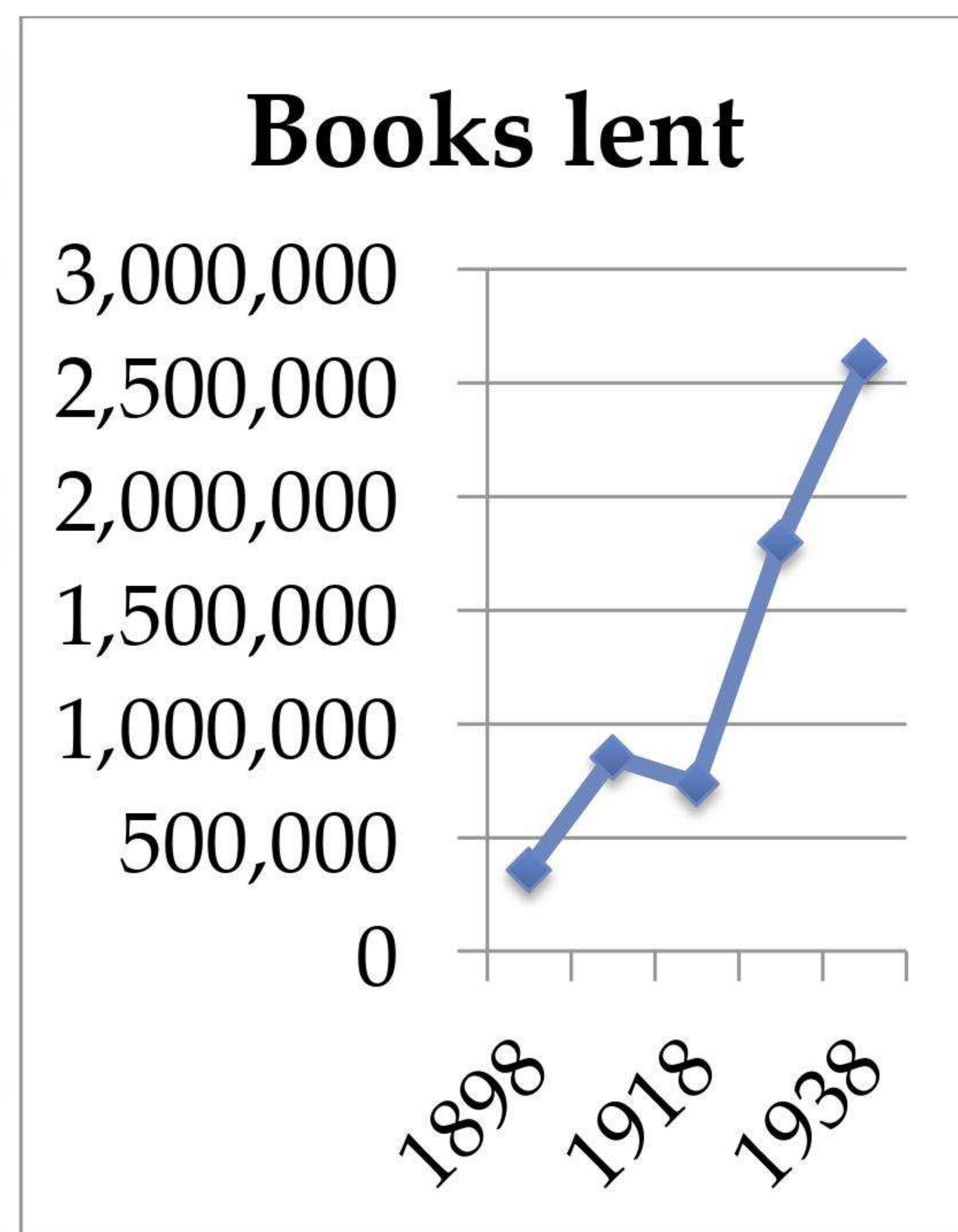
Newark Evening News, January 25, 1934. NPL

NEW HOURS TO MEET REDUCED BUDGET	
Main Library hours of opening: 10 - 6 daily Mondays and Tuesdays 10 - 9:30 P.M. Closed all day Saturday Closed Sundays and holidays	- 47 hours
Former hours, 75 a week, 13 1/2 hours daily. Loss to public 28 hours a week.	
Branch Library hours of opening: 1 - 6 on three days 1 - 9 one day Open Thursday evening 1 - 9 Closed Mondays and Saturdays	- 23 hours
Former hours, 40 a week Loss to public, 17 hours.	
Staff hours of working at Main Library: 9 - 6 daily - 7 1/2 hours a day Mondays and Tuesdays 9 - 9:30 P.M. Closed Saturdays	- 37 1/2 hours
Branch Library hours of working based upon 4 days of opening at Branches, and one day spent by staff at Main Library and Branch Library	- 37 1/2 hours
Former hours for whole staff - 40 1/2 3 hours without pay makes additional payout of 7%.	

Unfortunately, Winsor was soon confronted with the Great Depression. The City of Newark almost went bankrupt and reduced expenses wherever it could. In 1933, the City cut its allocation to the Library by almost 16%, even as usage of the library soared. Hours were cut back by more than a third at the Main Library and by more than 40% in the branches. On top of a city-wide cut in wages, library employees were asked to work three hours each week without pay. The budget for new books was cut by 75%.²³ We can imagine the tremendous act of will required of Winsor to keep the library functioning in those difficult times, because we saw Wilma Grey demonstrate a similar act of will following even more draconian cuts in the Library's budget ten years ago during the Great Recession.



Winsor in her office at the Library. Newark Museum.



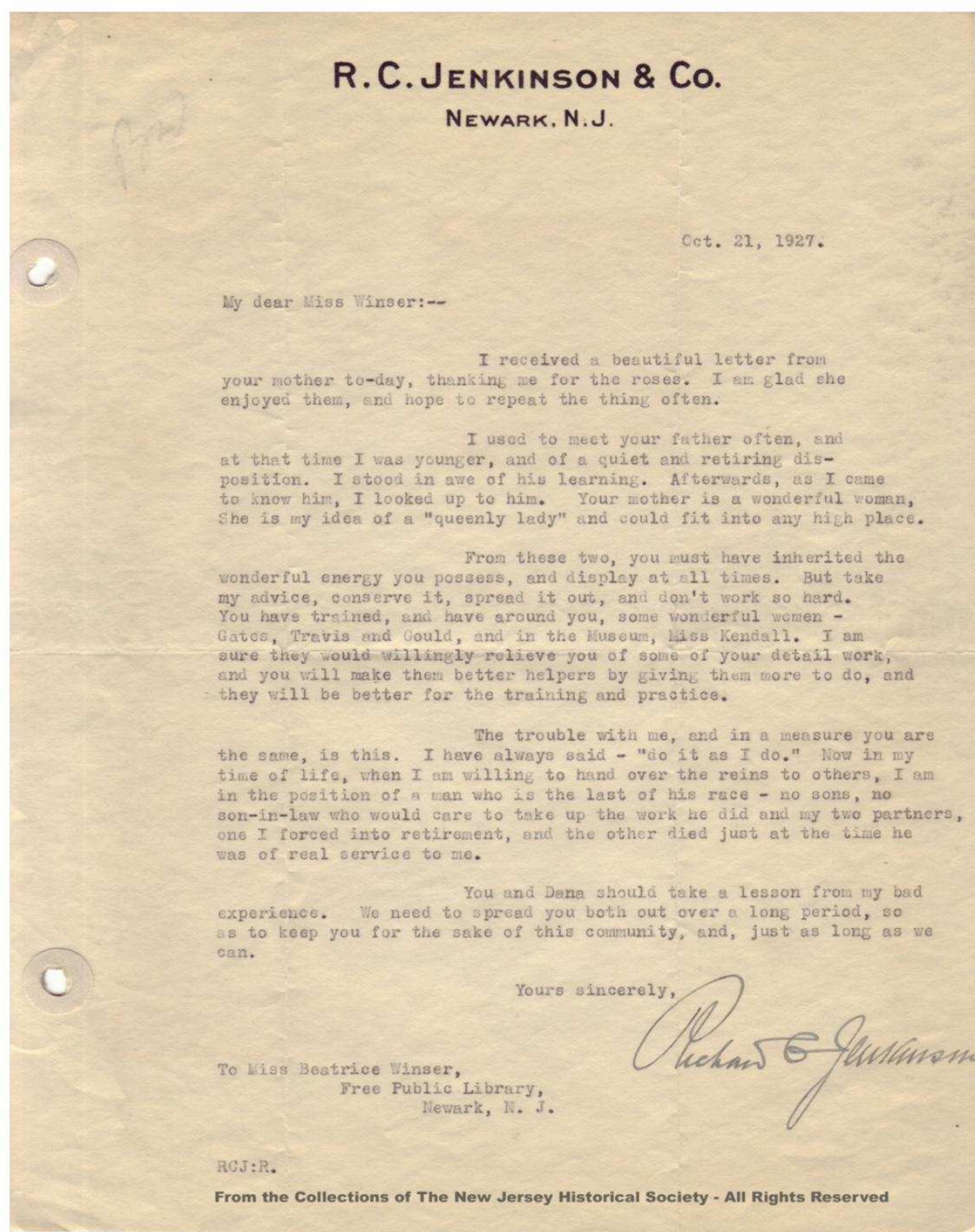
NPL

²³ "Funds Reduced, Hours Cut, Use of Library Increases," *Newark Evening News*, January 25, 1934; "New Hours to Meet Reduced Budget," typescript document, Winsor Papers, Newark Public Library. Base salaries were restored in July 1936; *Fifty Years: 1889-1939*, Newark Public Library, 29.

Winser succeeded in protecting the Library from even worse budget cuts, and she no doubt took satisfaction from the extraordinary increase in library usage during the Depression. For example, patrons borrowed nearly 2.6 million books in 1933 despite the reduced hours; that is an average of nearly six books for every resident of Newark at the time, or an even more impressive average of twenty books for every library card holder. This level of library usage continued throughout the 1930s under her leadership.²⁴

But the Depression must have taken quite a toll on Winser. She worked to keep the Library on what she considered Dana's path, but it was hardly a good environment for innovation. She continued to pour her energy into new initiatives – including the University of Newark and a peace organization called Veterans of Future Wars – but it was Frank Kingdon's vision that sparked her in these efforts, not the legacy of John Cotton Dana. My guess is that she put managing the Library on something akin to autopilot; in her fifth decade at the Library she knew everything about its operations and procedures, and presumably she felt that what had worked so brilliantly in the past was just fine for the present.

²⁴ "Funds Reduced, Hours Cut, Use of Library Increases," *Newark Evening News*, January 25, 1934; Comparison of key library use statistics (appropriation, book stock, books lent, card holders) for 1898, 1908, 1918, 1928, and 1938, typescript document, Winser Papers, Newark Public Library. The peak year for book lending was 1932, when 2,786,788 books were borrowed by library card holders; "Fifty Years: 1889-1939," 29.



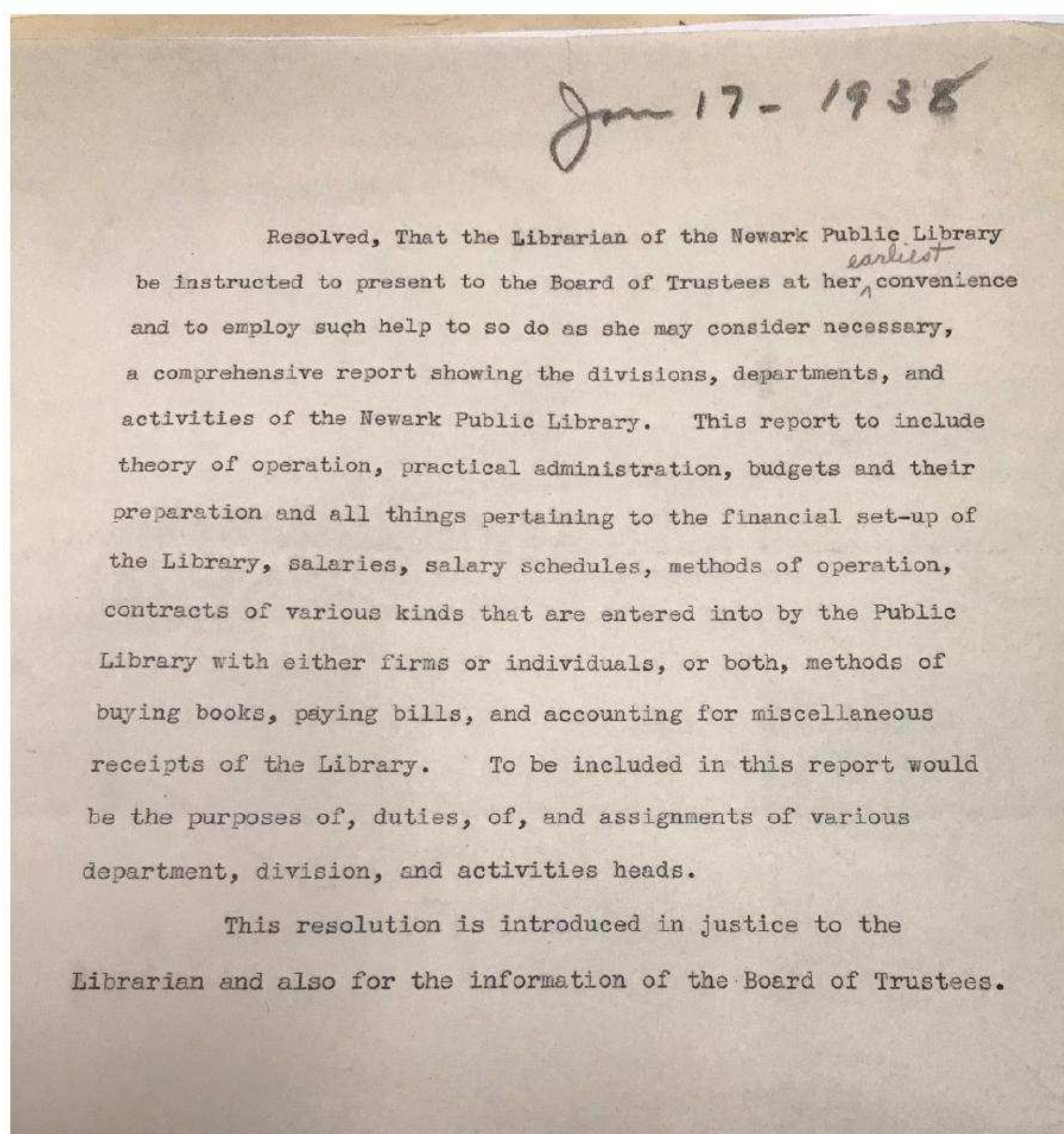
Richard Jenkinson to Beatrice Winser, October 21, 1927. NJHS.

There are signs that the trustees grew concerned about Winser and her management style some years before her noisy retirement as Librarian in 1942. Even at the best of times, there is a delicate dance between trustees and the director of a library. When there is strong trust between the director and trustees, the relationship is smooth and supportive, but when that trust begins to break down tensions almost inevitably increase. It can become difficult for trustees to communicate, let alone take action on concerns about a director, especially one with such a commanding presence and confident knowledge as Beatrice Winser.

Richard Jenkinson, longtime Library trustee and for decades a strong supporter of the library, showed how a trustee might do things the right way. He fully trusted the leadership of both Dana and Winsor, but by 1927 he had grown concerned about Winsor's tendency to micromanage and her reluctance to delegate. In a remarkable letter to Winsor, he referred warmly to both her parents, and then added:

From these two you must have inherited the wonderful energy you possess, and display at all times. But take my advice, conserve it, spread it out, and don't work so hard. You have trained, and have around you, some wonderful women – Gates, Travis and Gould, and in the Museum, Miss Kendall. I am sure they would willingly relieve you of some of your detail work, and you will make them better helpers by giving them more to do, and they will be better for the training and practice.

In the end, Winsor did not or could not follow Jenkinson's advice but she kept his letter separate from all her other correspondence, which suggests she took it seriously.²⁵



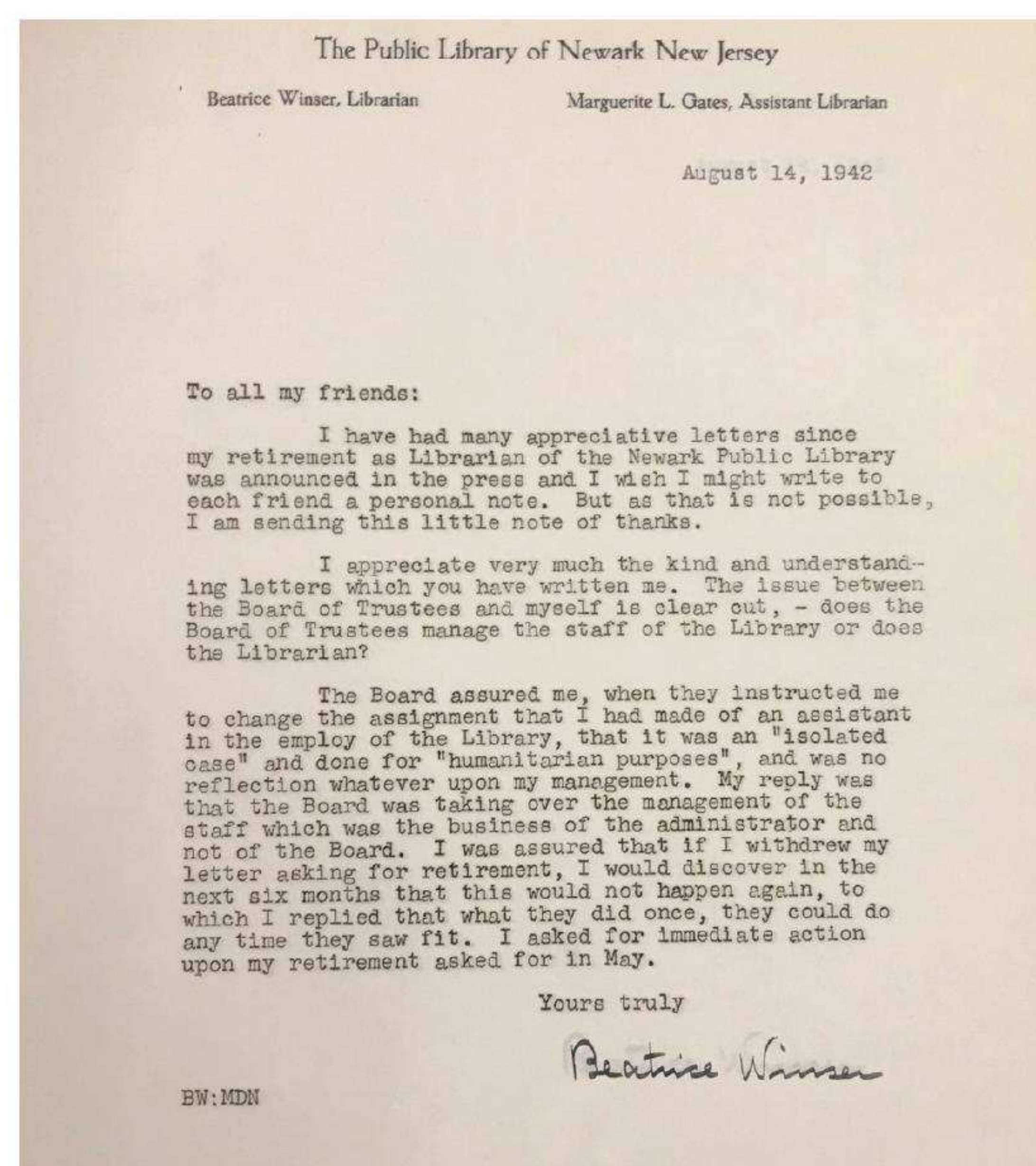
NPL Board Resolution, January 17, 1938. NPL.

²⁵ Richard Jenkinson, Letter to Beatrice Winsor, October 21, 1927. Winsor Papers, MG1023, Box 2, Scrapbook 5, New Jersey Historical Society.

In 1938, a different set of trustees took a more direct approach with Winsor, resolving, at great length, “That the Librarian...be instructed to present to the Board of Trustees at her earliest convenience...a comprehensive report showing the divisions, departments, and activities of the Newark Public Library...[including] theory of operation, practical administration, budgets...salaries...methods of operations, contracts of various kinds,” etc., etc. This resolution was practically a declaration of war, and Winsor responded with outrage, declaring “[the] Vote shows a complete lack of confidence in your administration, & I have nothing to say at this time.” She succeeded in staring them down.²⁶



Newark Museum



Newark Museum

²⁶ Resolution of the Board of Trustees, Newark Public Library, January 17, 1938, with Winsor’s handwritten notes, Winsor Papers, Newark Museum.

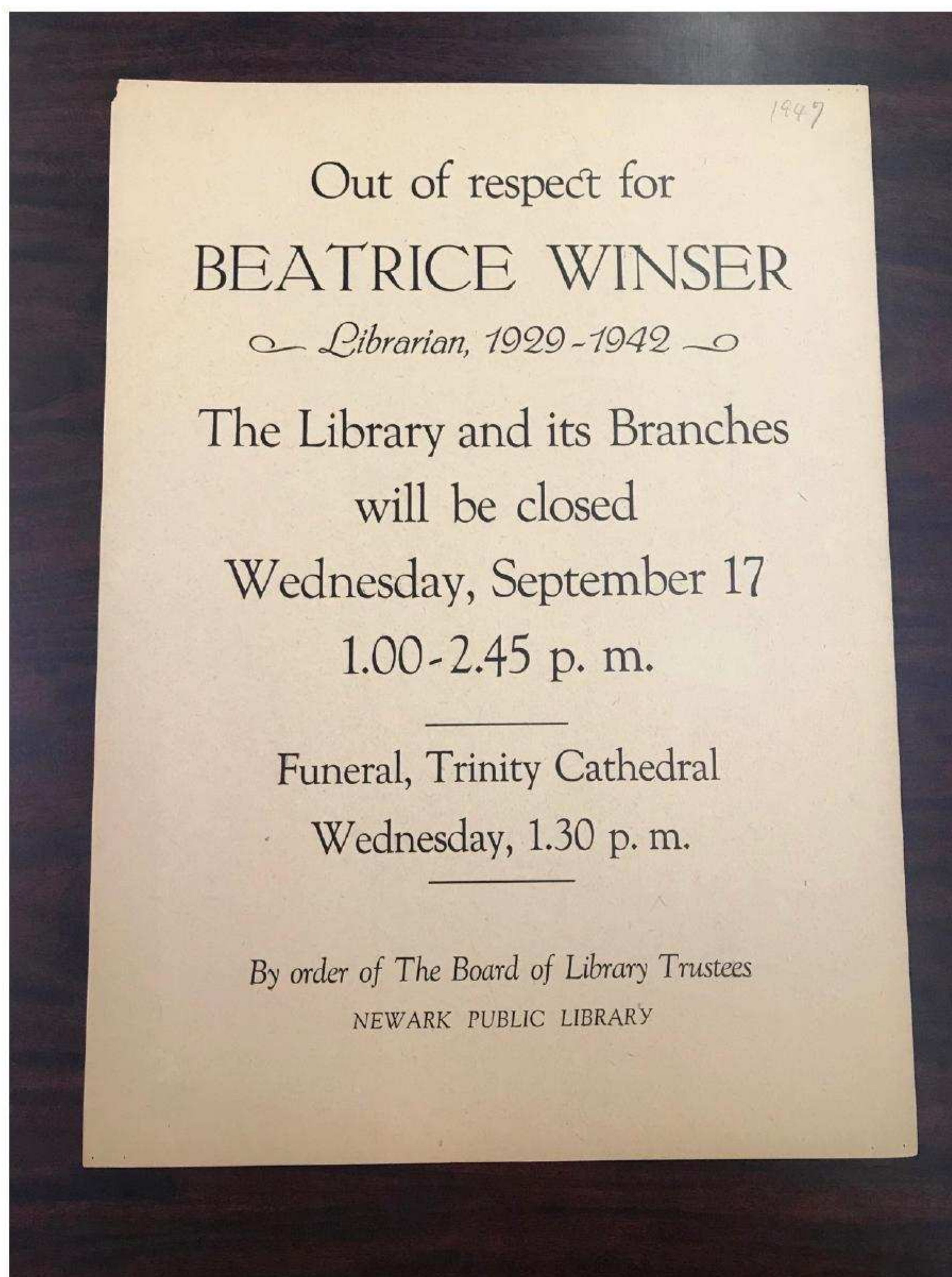
Four years later, still another set of trustees overruled her objection to transferring a staff member from one of the branches to the Main Library. This was a step too far, and Winsor objected strenuously on the principle that the librarian should manage the staff of the Library, not the board of trustees. She asked to retire, and when the Board did not reverse its decision she insisted they grant her request.

Winsor was quite right on this question of principle. Trustees hire and evaluate the Library Director, but it is the responsibility of the Director to manage the staff. In this instance, the dispute was no doubt a larger issue coming out sideways. Winsor had worked for the Library for 53 years; she had apparently become imperious and more than a little inflexible in her role. The trustees likely felt it was time for fresh leadership.

Winsor did not go quietly. She complained loudly and often about the trustees, carrying out a wide correspondence on the matter and getting the local papers on her side. The staff backed her both privately and publicly. Winsor went so far as to declare that the trustees would be unable to attract a new librarian of any merit given their shameful action. The controversy was so great that a nine-member public commission was formed to inquire into conditions at the Library. Its report three months later avoided firm conclusions and seems to have had the sole aim of pouring oil on troubled waters. And in the event, the trustees secured John B.

Kaiser, who had been head of the Oakland Public Library in California for the prior fifteen years, to serve as the new Librarian in Newark.²⁷

Winser continued as Director of the Newark Museum for the next five years, but she severed all ties with the Library. I might add that for the first time, Winser was paid a salary by the museum; as far as I can tell Dana worked for 20 years and Winser for 33 years on both library and museum matters, but were compensated only by the library during those years.

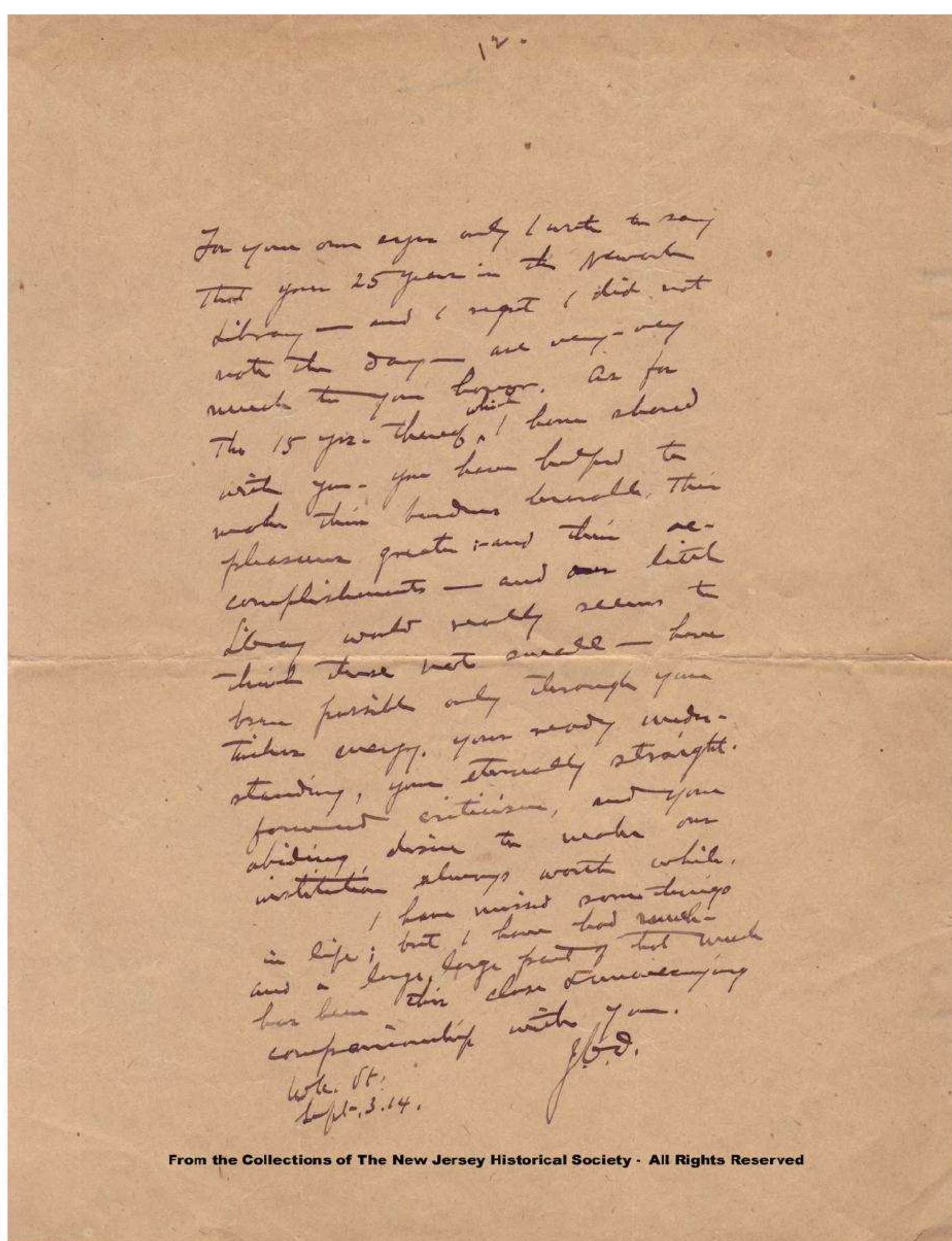


NPL Poster Collection.

²⁷ The Winser Papers at both the Newark Public Library and the Newark Museum contain extensive correspondence and clippings about this episode.

Following Winser's death in September 1947, the trustees had the grace to close the library for a couple hours to permit staff members to attend her funeral at Trinity Cathedral, which her family had attended for some six decades.²⁸ Winser was buried in a family plot in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn.

As we mark the 130th anniversary of the Newark Public Library and the 110th anniversary of the Newark Museum, it is amazing to recall that Beatrice Winser played a key role in the first 53 years of the Library's history and the first 38 years of the Museum's history. She deserves more credit than she has received.



John Cotton Dana's tribute to Beatrice Winser, September 3, 1914, NJHS.

²⁸ Poster Collection, Newark Public Library.

I will give the last word to John Cotton Dana. In a letter to Winsor in 1914, the midway point in their 29-year partnership, Dana expressed just how much their partnership meant to him:

For your eyes only I write to say that your 25 years in the Newark Library...are very, very much to your honor. As for the 15 yrs. thereof which I have shared with you, you have helped to make their burdens bearable, their pleasures greater and their accomplishments...have been possible only through your tireless energy, your ready understanding, your eternally straight-forward criticism, and your abiding desire to make our institution always worth while...²⁹

“Always worth while” -- that is a good goal to keep in mind during this anniversary year and for years to come.

Thank you.

Timothy Crist
January 15, 2019

²⁹ John Cotton Dana, Letter to Beatrice Winsor, September 3, 1914. Winsor Papers, New Jersey Historical Society.